



## January



At its maximum size about 100 years ago Collier Glacier, once filled a valley - as shown by the marks on the South Sister to the left.

During the start of the year, opponents of the 5,000-acre Flat Country timber sale east of McKenzie Bridge had convinced Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa to form an interdisciplinary review team to review it. Their report resulted in the sale being put on hold.

A new report concluded glacier retreat has accelerated, with 20 of Oregon's glaciers disappearing since the mid-late 1900s, and no glaciers remaining in the Wallowa Mountains.

The number of greenbacks involved - \$117 to \$230 per megawatt hour (to bring the generators back into full service) versus \$33 MWh (to buy power from the BPA) helped assure gain a unanimous vote by the EWEB board on January 3rd that called for the removal of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project.

"Revitalize, rebuild, and restore" were the themes at the core of a public meeting in the new gym at McKenzie Schools. Some of the conversations that day included ways to promote compact, small-town development patterns.

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation was asking the public to share safety concerns and experiences on the McKenzie Highway as part of a new Hwy. 126 safety study.

## February

Via the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Programs Advisory Council, Oregon decided to postpone the release of a draft of statewide wildfire risks after considering several recommendations that would substantively change the map itself.

ODOT's \$5 million "Greenwood Dr - Vida" project was scheduled to go out to bidders. Officials say the pavement resurfacing project would replace deteriorating roadway surfaces that had come to the end of their useful life.

At their February 7th meeting, the Lane Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted unanimously to place the renewal of the current public safety levy before voters during the May 16th election. Passage of the measure, officials said, would not increase the tax rate.



People had an opportunity to log their input into laptop computers featuring a pinpoint map - as well as verbally - at Highway Safety meeting in Leaburg.

## March

An unidentified man was killed in a fall on the east side of Aufderheide Drive (USFS Rd. 19), a short distance south of Terwilliger Hot Springs. First responders arrived on the scene to find a man lying motionless on the ground at the bottom of a cliff.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office was seeking help in identifying individuals involved in recent thefts occurring in the Vida and Leaburg areas. Investigators suspected a mid-2000s Suzuki Aerio and an unidentified suspect wearing a hooded sweatshirt and pants were likely involved.

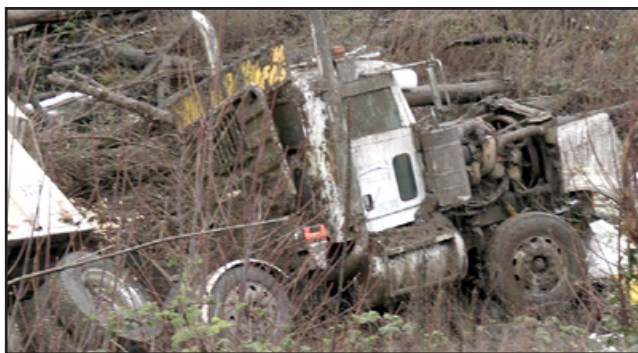
After more than three years of effort, excavation was planned to get underway within a few weeks for a 2,669 square-foot fire station in Blue River - with two full-size engine bays, a training room, a locker room, bathrooms, and some storage space.

The Annual April Fool's also appeared, with headlines like: "Passing wind strands Pacific Trail hikers."



Team members rappelled approximately 300 feet down a steep cliff overlooking the Cougar Reservoir to recover the subject.

## April



Cleanup crews were involved in a difficult, labor-intensive recovery after a loaded 53-foot chip trailer and truck crashed through a guardrail and landed on its side in a muddy Finn Rock wetland on a Thursday morning.

A public forum for candidates seeking seats on the McKenzie School Board didn't pan out as planned when only four of the eight candidates showed up to answer questions.

A week of "boats galore" included McKenzie Drift Boat Boat builders who were busy at the McKenzie River Discovery Center. Others brought their boats to the Wooden Boat Festival at the Eagle Rock Lodge, and the last boat built by Woodie Hindman was a welcome donation to benefit the creation of the new Discovery Center.

Upper McKenzie firefighters who earned top awards this year were: Firefighter of the Year: Jose Ramirez Solano, 2023 Rookie of the Year: Taylor Wickizer, Chief's Award recipient Dirk Rogers, and Jess Boykin who received the annual EMS Award.

## May



Dam builders hadn't considered an expiration date when they were busy constructing the Leaburg Dam in 1929.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners granted a right-of-way okay to Blue River Drive allowing it to join the ranks of Territorial Highway, East 30th Avenue, and Gilham Road. How? The unanimous vote put a stamp of approval on the creation of a "Design Concept" that will allow downtown rebuilding plans to mirror the way the town's streets had been configured for over 100 years.

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners planned to provide an overview of what is likely to occur as plans move forward to permanently discontinue generating electricity at the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project. Issues they said were sure to be aired included when work to remove Leaburg Dam could get underway and if the utility's federal license to operate the project would also require removing the Waltherville project.

The Thurston High School mass shooting continued to be hard to comprehend 25 years later. Since then fatal shootings have become more frequent, while decisions on making schools safer, gun control, and sentencing juvenile offenders remain in flux.

## June

The area moved to 'High' Fire Danger, impacting approximately 1.9 million acres of state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management lands in Lane, Linn, and portions of Douglas County.

Over at the Tokatee Golf Club's annual celebration, animated patriotic icons - ranging from the Statue of Liberty to the American flag - were joined by the club's logo in brightening the night sky. The images were part of a 13-minute drone light show.

Portions of the McKenzie River were closed to salmon angling through December 31st. due to concerns about protecting wild Chinook.



Meili Construction based out of Eugene is the general contractor for the entire Lazy Days rebuild project. Stump removal and grading of the site is now underway, in addition to the community septic work.

Continued - Page 10



## Outlooks

“Don’t let the fear of striking out hold you back.”

—Babe Ruth

The “Babe” was born George Herman Ruth in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1895. By age seven, he was known as an incorrigible child due to many counts of misbehavior. Perhaps due to his parents’ long work hours, they signed over custody of young George to the Xaverian Brothers at St. Mary’s Industrial School for Boys, which was both a reformatory school and an orphanage. St. Mary’s served as his home for the next 12 years.

At St. Mary’s, George found a mentor in Brother Matthias, a man who was large in both his physical build and his impact on the future baseball star. After years of training under Brother Matthias, when George was 19, Jack Dunn, owner and manager of the minor league Baltimore Orioles, recruited this rising talent. Here, he also earned his famous nickname. Because of George’s young age he became known as Jack’s “babe,” and the name stuck.

Within five months, the Bos-

ton Red Sox signed him to his first major league contract. Later he joined the New York Yankees. During his 22-year professional career, when he set the record of the time with 60 home runs in one season, he carved his name into baseball history and American folklore as “The Great Bambino” and “The Sultan of Swat.” His lifetime record of 714 home runs was unbeaten until 1974.

The Babe spent his post-baseball life doing radio talk shows and speaking at orphanages and hospitals. He was among the first five players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame with Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson and Honus Wagner. Fittingly, numerous awards granted to him after his death in 1948, such as the Associated Press’ Athlete of the Century, have acknowledged his legendary status as the most well-known baseball player of all time.

passiton.com

### Bear with Me! The story of Wojtek the bear, who joined the Polish Army in WWII.

By The Foundation  
for a Better Life

Young soldiers, far away from home and missing their families, discover a bear cub. That’s how the story of Wojtek begins, back in 1942. He was alone in the mountains of Iran; nobody knows how he got there.

When beleaguered Polish troops came upon Wojtek, they were immediately struck with emotions. They had been away from their loved ones for a long time. Their own families had been separated by war. They needed something to pick their spirits up. So, they nursed the baby bear with milk from a bottle and named him Wojtek, which means: a warrior to whom combat brings joy.

Wojtek wasn’t much of a warrior, but he was officially adopted into the army. He traveled with the troops to the Middle East, providing comradery and entertainment. He would wrestle with the men, chase after oranges they tossed for him and follow them about like a puppy. He became their connection to humanity in a time when the light of peace seemed so far away. And, like a child, he was also mischievous. In the sweltering desert heat, he learned how to break into the showers and turn on the water. He could also be seen lugging crates of empty ammunition with the men or standing at attention in formation. Wojtek was also the chief intimidator of new recruits: He would literally bear hug them and hold them upside down for a good laugh.

Getting through the grind of war takes something extraordinary, something unexpectedly insane to preserve your sanity. That’s what

Wojtek did for the men who had been so long in the fog and uncertainty of World War II. An orphaned bear became the symbol of strength and resilience. The regiment even changed their insignia to one of Wojtek the bear.

Thankfully, wars end, and in the transition, Wojtek was not forgotten. He shipped with a group of men from his regiment to a farm in Scotland — a former camp run by the Scots to train Polish fighters — to rehabilitate for a time. The farm was a fitting place to retire for a bear with so much military experience. Wojtek was a local celebrity. Stories of him kicking a soccer ball, attending local dances and parties, and enjoying jam and honey are still told today.

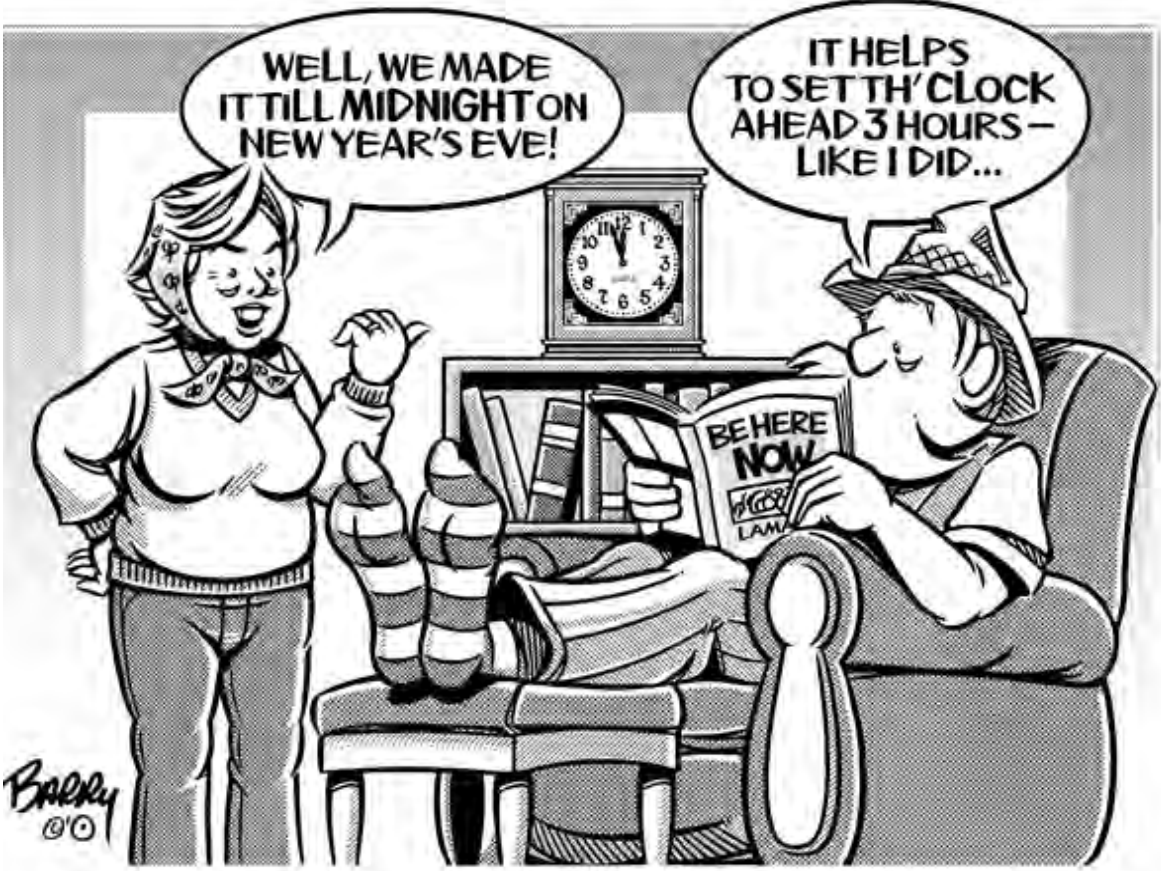
Retirement was good to Wojtek. He lived to bring a little joy and diversion to his fellow veterans and new visitors. And to everyone who knew him, Wojtek was the mascot that made a difficult time a little more — excuse the pun — bearable.

passiton.com

## Letters to the Editor



Letters To The Editor should contain no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published upon request. Deadline for submission is Monday at 5 pm.



## Forest Service publishes Notice of Intent to develop a Northwest Forest Plan Amendment

Last week, the USDA Forest Service published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal to amend the 17 land management plans of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) that provide direction for the management of those national forests and grasslands. The process will be informed by robust engagement with stakeholders across all affected geographies to address urgent land management concerns including wildfire resilience, climate change adaptation, and greater tribal inclusion in the plan.

While the plan has guided important progress over the past three decades, changed ecological and social conditions are challenging the effectiveness of this plan. This action launches the public process of amending the Northwest Forest Plan with a 45-day public comment period. The Notice of Intent identifies changed conditions that are driving the need to amend the plan. The process will focus on five key areas: wildfire resilience, climate change adaptation, tribal inclusion, sustainable communities, and conservation of old growth ecosystems and related biodiversity. Amending or otherwise strengthening the effectiveness of the Northwest Forest Plan

can incorporate the latest science and help forests adapt to social, economic, cultural, and ecological changes. The Forest Service intends to preserve the elements of the plan that are working well.

Earlier this year, the Secretary of Agriculture appointed a Federal Advisory Committee to advise the agency on updating the Northwest Forest Plan. The committee brings together diverse perspectives representing the experiences of communities, experts, tribes, and other interested parties across the Northwest Forest Plan landscape. The Committee will inform ways that forest management can effectively conserve key resources while considering social, ecological, and economic conditions and needs. This committee has already

met and offered input on the focus areas, issues to be considered, and possible approaches.

The Northwest Forest Plan covers 24.5 million acres of federally managed lands in western Oregon and Washington, and northwestern California. It was established in 1994 to address threats to threatened and endangered species while also contributing to social and economic sustainability in the region. After nearly 30 years, the Northwest Forest Plan needs to be updated to accommodate changed ecological and social conditions.

Additional information about Northwest Forest Plan: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev2\\_026990](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev2_026990)



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Friday 12/29		Saturday 12/30		Sunday 12/31	
McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass
Cloudy	Cloudy	Showers	PM Rain/Snow Shwrs	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
20% chance precip	20% chance precip	50% chance precip	60% chance precip	30% chance precip	20% chance precip
High: 56 Low: 44	High: 39 Low: 31	High: 50 Low: 42	High: 40 Low: 29	High: 49 Low: 40	High: 38 Low: 29

WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/19	52	46	0	1,234 cfs	12/19	45	37	0.27	6,000 cfs
12/20	49	40	0	NA	12/20	56	40	0.03	4,750 cfs
12/21	48	35	0	810 cfs	12/21	55	36	0	4,220 cfs
12/22	42	36	0	631 cfs	12/22	55	35	0.36	4,030 cfs
12/23	40	32	0	526 cfs	12/23	46	33	0.01	3,770 cfs
12/24	39	34	0.01	526 cfs	12/24	47	30	0	3,530 cfs
12/25	48	38	NA	526 cfs	12/25	45	34	0.37	3,480 cfs



## Sheriff's Report

**Dec. 12: 5:56 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - McK. Hwy & Ross Ln. A male was observed wandering through yards. He appeared to be under the influence of drugs. He was described as a white male adult in his 30's with a thin build.

**Dec. 13: 12:25 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. A female at the location advised that her boyfriend was acting strangely. She later advised that she was fine.

**Dec. 14: 1:42 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 39200 blk, Howard Rd. A caller reported seeing some flashing lights in the mountains. the caller tried to communicate via Morse code.

**10:35 p.m:** Harassment - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln. A caller reported that another tenant on the property was harassing the caller by making noise.

**Dec. 15: 10:42 a.m:** Theft - 55200 blk, Delta Rd. A caller reported that a bicycle and a couple of canoe seats were stolen out of a shed on their property.

**Dec. 16: 1:46 p.m:** Assault - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A caller advised that their neighbor assaulted and knocked the caller down.

**7:04 p.m:** Assault - 37500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. A caller reported an ongoing dispute between other tenants on the property. Parties were separated and the other involved left the area.

**Dec. 17: 12:37 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln. A caller reported that a known person attempted to break into a garage on the property.

**5:04 p.m:** Theft - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. A caller reported that they met a person on a dating website that scammed the caller for a large sum of money.

**Dec. 19: 9:40 a.m:** Fraud - 56500 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported that an online entity

attempted to scam a large amount of money.

**1:50 p.m:** Arrest - 36900 blk, Camp Creek Rd. An LCSO deputy conducted a traffic stop on the suspect of a previous dispute and theft case. The suspect, Benjamin Stephen Wize, was lodged at the Lane County Jail on charges of Assault in the Fourth Degree, Unlawful Entry into a Motor Vehicle, Theft in the Second Degree, and Driving While Suspended (Misdemeanor).

**4:51 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - 59200 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd. A male at the location was reported to be acting in an alarming manner around children. The male offered children stickers at his vehicle and was being overly friendly. He was described as a white male adult 55-70 years old with a heavy build. He stood approximately 6'01" and had gray/white hair. He drove a dark colored Chevrolet S10 pickup.

**10:03 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St. Verbal dispute between family members.

**Dec. 20: 11:30 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Lat: 44.179907. Long: -123.00051.

**1:05 p.m:** Warrant Service - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**1:58 p.m:** Subpoena Service - 93700 blk, Marcola Rd.

**2:08 p.m:** Civil Service - 95000

blk, Marcola Rd.

**2:14 p.m:** Civil Service - 90500 blk, Hill Rd.




**3:20 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**Continued On Page 9**

## State Police Report

**Dec. 19: 15:18:** Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126 E, Milepost 14. Unit #1, a Ford F-150, was reported to have been tailgating Unit #2, a Mazda CX-5. The driver of Unit #2 reported at the beginning of a passing lane, Unit #1 sped up into the B-lane to pass and hit Unit #2's passenger side mirror and kept going at a high rate of speed. Trooper contacted the driver of Unit #1 at his residence and he advised he was traveling approximately 65 mph as he was passing Unit #2. He passed Unit #2 in the B-lane because it appeared they were going to stay in the A-lane. The driver of Unit #1 stated he saw Unit #2 veer over but did not realize they hit vehicles until he arrived home. The damage to Unit #1 was on the rear driver side on the bed of the pickup. None of the occupants of the vehicles were injured. Involved: white Ford F-350, blue Mazda CX-5, 47-year-old male, 32-year-old female, both

**Continued On Page 9**

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## Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**Dec. 22: 03:49:** Medical - 91000 block, Mill Creek Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

**05:50:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Lat./Long. shows near McK. Hwy./Deschutes County. Caller reported a vehicle into side of hill.

**Dec. 23: 11:18:** MVA, Injury - McK. Hwy./Milepost 52. Single vehicle upside down, 1 subject entrapped.



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By Slim Randles

The morning conference began innocently enough, with Steve and Doc arguing over which of the little packaged jellies went better on sourdough toast, and no one caring which one was right.

Dud and Bert and I sat silently, sucking down the morning elixir until it spread life to our outermost reaches as the Mule Barn truck stop's world dilemma think tank crept to life. Bert was unusually quiet this morning and we asked why. He hemmed and hawed a little, then said, "Doc, you know about these things. What exactly is female trouble?"

Oh shoot. Pretty heavy stuff for just two cups of coffee, so the rest of us hurried down a third as Doc puffed up a bit and got ready.

"Sure, Bert," Doc said kindly. Then Doc gave us the best his nine years of college and 50 years of medical practice had blessed him with. He waxed eloquent on hormonal elements, the ebb and flow of female fertility, things that

could go wrong with tubular parts, and the effect all of these things could have on the attitudinal proclivities of the dear ladies we all love and admire. He took a break while Mavis returned with more coffee and with strange looks at our faces while we tried not to stare at her. Then she was gone, and Doc began again. Finally, when we had been pretty well checked out on the mysterious workings of the gentle gender, Doc said, "Bert, if your wife is having some problems, have her give me a call."

"Oh, it ain't her, Doc," Bert said. "It's Dud."

We all looked at Dud. He grinned sheepishly. No one wanted to say anything. Finally, Steve said, "I'm not going to be the one to ask."

"That's what you said, Dud, right?" Bert asked. "That's why Saturday's plans are shot."

"Female trouble?" Doc said, looking at his old friend.

Dud nodded. "Anita won't let me go fishing this weekend."

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Brought to you by the nice folks at Rust Medical Center in Albuquerque. Thank you.



Wishing everyone a full year of health, well-being, and the kind of happiness that truly matters!

2024

It's time to vote for the Reader's Choice for the McKenzie River's Man, Woman & Business of the Year

Cast your vote by December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Fax, write, or email their name and an explanation of why you think they're the best in the McKenzie Valley

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Gardening  
Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State  
University

OSU Extension Service

Get a leg up on fruit tree problems



By Kym Pokorny  
Just when you're ready for a long winter's nap, it's time to tend your fruit trees.

If you don't, chances are they'll struggle in the coming season. Giving them attention now helps ward off insects and diseases, said Steve Renquist, a horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service who has taught hundreds of gardeners the basics of managing fruit trees.

Applying dormant sprays – such as Superior dormant spray oil, copper, and sulfur – helps control nasty pests and diseases, including codling moths and apple scabs.

\* Superior oil, also called horticultural oil, is a highly refined miscible oil (up to 99.9 percent pure) that when mixed with water

and sprayed on trees will smother overwintering insects and their eggs. It targets mites, aphids, leaf hoppers, mealy bugs, leaf miners, and more.

\* Sulfur is a fungicide that controls fungal diseases like apple and pear scab and peach leaf curl.

\* Copper is a fungicide and bactericide that controls diseases like bacterial blight, fire blight, and Nectria canker. It kills bacteria and fungal spores left in the trees, including Pseudomonas syringae, a common bacteria that can cause gummosis, which is the oozing of bacterial-infested honey-like sap from bark split. In a rotation of copper and sulfur, the copper will deal with bacteria and sulfur will target fungal diseases best.

With a spray regimen of all three – used in conjunction with good hygiene and pruning practices – most fruit tree problems can be nipped in the bud, according to Renquist.

The trio of pesticides, which can be used in organic gardens, fit snugly into the realm of integrated pest management (IPM), a practice that uses a variety of low-risk tools to deal with pest problems and minimize risks to humans, animals, and the environment.

"They are a really important part of good IPM," Renquist said. "When you're planning a program, you want to use products that have low toxicity and won't cause a lot of problems for the environment. Dormant sprays score pretty well. Their toxicity level for animals is pretty low if you follow the labels. Superior or horticultural oil kills target insects, but beneficial insects are rarely around trees in the dormant season."

A good reference for disease and pest control is Extension's

Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards, which has a list of cultural practices and the least toxic products for various pests and diseases.

Renquist recommends a three-pronged approach to spraying. In the fall around Thanksgiving, apply copper. Spray sulfur in early January and then at least two weeks later make a spray with dormant oil. Then make another copper spray in mid-to-late February. Don't combine copper and sulfur or sulfur and oil in the same tank to minimize the risk of damage to tree bark.

If you don't like to spray or forget the early spray, Renquist said the January application is the most important. This year, if you've missed the January timing, you're still better off making the third spray.

Some tips from Renquist:

\* Read the labels of all products you use and follow the instructions. Using any pesticide incorrectly is not only harmful to you and the environment, it can cause damage to the very plants you're trying to benefit.

\* Apply Superior or horticultural oil during the dormant season to allow for greater coverage and a higher likelihood of getting to a majority of insects.

\* Spray when temperatures are above freezing but before buds break.

\* Don't mix copper and sulfur in the same tank.

\* Prune trees to keep the branches separated for good pesticide coverage and good hygiene. The best time is in January so that the last spray or two will cover the pruning wounds.

\* Clean up fruit, leaves, and debris under trees. They can harbor insects and diseases. If you don't want to rake leaves, mow over them a couple of times and leave them to decompose.

\* Clear weeds from around the trunk and under the tree where insects and rodents can hide.

\* Add organic matter around trees for fertility because enhanced microbial populations in the soil will help devour the remnants of orchard sprays that fall to the ground.

\* Accept a little damage to fruit.

\* When planting fruit trees, consider dwarfs so you don't need a ladder for spraying.

For more information on fruit trees, refer to Extension's Growing Tree Fruits and Nuts in the Home Garden and Training and Pruning Your Home Orchard.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



RECIPES FOR  
A NEW YEAR

As you begin a new year, perhaps you'll want to consider trying new recipes for your family or you may want to add twists and turns to a recipe you've made before. These could be old recipes you find in an ancestor's collection. Or they might come from different parts of the country, even another country.

Variations of Old Recipes

My daughter also tries new recipes. I recall when she made individual pizzas for family members. Also she has used pizza dough for Pizza Turnovers, which were delicious.

Roll the dough out into a small circle; hers were about 8 inches. Spread one half with cheese, meat (bacon, sausage, or pepperoni), chopped green pepper, chopped onion, and sliced mushroom. (I like to sauté the mushrooms first.) Then fold over the dough and pinch the edges together. Bake at 400 degrees F. until cooked through, about the time you bake a pizza. You can vary the ingredients you use inside the turnover, and add a

bit of pizza sauce, if you prefer.

Southwestern Dish

When Jim and I lived in Texas, during his Air Force days, we discovered Southwestern cooking with a Mexican influence.

A Texas friend introduced me to Lazy Enchiladas. Sauté 1 chopped onion in small amount of oil or pan spray. Add 1 pound ground beef (you can use turkey) and brown. Add one 15-oz. can stewed tomatoes and one 15-oz. can red kidney beans, 1 can chili without beans. Heat thoroughly.

Layer tortillas in 9 x 12-inch pan. Top with meat mixture. Continue layering tortillas (about 12 total) and meat topping. Generously cover top with grated cheddar cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. You can make this ahead and refrigerate or freeze, then cook when needed.

What new recipes are you trying this year or would like to share?

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen, who grew up on a farm, often writes about nostalgic and Inspirational topics.)

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## Community Notes

### Dec. 18 - Jan. 3 No School

Winter Break for the WALTERVILLE Elementary School, 40589 McKenzie Hwy.

### December 29 Springfield Schools Budget

The SPS accepting applications for the District's budget committee

Springfield Public Schools is seeking applicants to be on the District's budget committee! The committee plays an integral role in the approval process every year.

Typically starting in January, the budget committee members attend a monthly work session where District staff present budget-relevant information. The Superintendent presents the proposed budget in May for consideration by the budget committee which reviews the budget proposal to ensure the District is fiscally responsible in allocating resources that are in line with District goals. It examines the proposed budget, listens to community comments, and then approves the budget and property tax rates. The budget is then forwarded to the school board for adoption.

The budget committee consists of 10 members - five school board members and five citizen volunteers appointed by the board. There are currently four open seats for the appointed citizen seats.

Applicants must reside within SPS boundaries and must be registered to vote. Budget committee members cannot be district employees. They are not compensated for their time or service.

Anyone interested in serving on the budget committee can apply in several ways:

- \* Complete and submit the on-line application form
- \* Printed applications are available at the District office at 640 A Street

The deadline to apply is December 29. The Board will interview finalists for the positions and vote during its Business Meeting on January 8.

### December 30 Dime At A Time

The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

### December 31 Hoodoo New Year's

New Year's Eve Celebration, presented by Bigfoot Beverages and Pepsi, is an all-day party on the mountain at Hoodoo Ski & Recreation, 27400 Big Lk Rd. Lifts run from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., special dinner menu, live music in the lodge until midnight and a professional fireworks show on the

mountain shortly after 9 p.m. It's a great family-friendly atmosphere for New Year's and non-skiing guests are welcome to come hang out in the lodge and enjoy the free live music.

### January 2 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

### January 2 Coffee With The Locals

Meet at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd. Come have a cup of coffee with the locals at 10 a.m. (paid for by Locals Helping Locals). Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

### January 2 Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

### January 2 EWEB Board Meeting

From 5:30 to 8 p.m., EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd, Eugene. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time at <https://tinyurl.com/EWEB-Board-Meeting-08-01-23>.

Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically starting at 5:30 p.m. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If the first Tuesday of the month is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the next business day or on another Tuesday that same month. If an additional regular meeting is required, generally we will hold that meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of that month. The board president and general manager may reschedule these meetings, schedule additional meetings or cancel any board meeting by mutual agreement.

An interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to

the meeting. To arrange for this service, call 541-685-7000.

### January 3 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

### January 3 Watershed Wednesday

Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

### January 3 Wacky Wednesday BINGO

Craig's Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry's Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. hosts, with cards on sale at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning spots fill up quickly. Burger and brew special all day!

### January 3 Cornhole League

Upper McKenzie Cornhole League will meet from 5:00pm - 6:30pm, 54745 McKenzie River Dr, in Rainbow. Join us for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center! We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m.! Bring some snacks to share.

### January 3 Blue River Water Board

The board will meet at 7:15 p.m. A link to the meeting is available at: [blueriverpark.com](http://blueriverpark.com)

### January 3 Blue River Park Board

The board will meet at 8 p.m. A link to the online meeting is at: [blueriverwaterdistrict.com](http://blueriverwaterdistrict.com).

### January 6 Dime At A Time

The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

### Jan. 22 through Feb. 12 Woodland Management class

OSU Extension Forestry offers Woodland Management class for Lane County Woodland Owners. Woodland owners can build skills for caring for their trees by taking Oregon State University Extension Forestry's Woodland Management: A basic forestry short course. This course teaches owners of wooded property how to assess their trees, understand the ecology of their woods, enhance wildlife habitat, get a fair deal when selling logs, and take practical steps to keep their woods on track to provide enjoyment for years to come.

Oregon State University Extension will be hosting this course on Monday mornings from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. from January 22nd through February 12th, 2024, at the OSU Extension Office in Eugene. A full day field trip is included on February 26th. The Cost to attend is \$40 per individual or \$50 for two or more participants from the same family.

Pre-registration is required and must be received by January 15th. To register or learn more, visit [beav.es/qny](http://beav.es/qny) or contact Carrie Mack at 541-237-6808 or [carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu](mailto:carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu).

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### January 8 Parks Advisory Committee

Lane County Parks Advisory Committee meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy, Eugene. The Parks Advisory Committee meets 2nd Monday of each

month (except during July & August). It advises the Board of County Commissioners on park needs, recommends priorities for projects - including financial and operational development and acquisition. The committee also provides recommendations regarding long-range planning for future park programs and needs, and serves as a liaison group representing the concerns of the community.

### Jan. 22 & Feb. 7 Wildfire Recovery

The State of Oregon is providing funds for Holiday Farm wildfire recovery and all are welcome to join the conversation - the next Committee meetings are Monday, January 22 and Wednesday, February 7, both from 1-4 PM and there is time set aside at the beginning and end for comments and questions. The State of Oregon program is called PIER - Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization - visit <https://lane-countyor.gov/PIER> to confirm meeting time and dates, sign up for project updates, provide comments, and get information on upcoming meetings and materials.

### Paver Sales Remain Open

The Vida McKenzie Community Center will continue to offer opportunities to buy engraved pavers for their patio. As a fundraiser, continuing sales will support the completed work and provide for additional enhancements. As batches of new paver purchases are made, the engraver will furnish and install the newly etched pavers. Call 541-953-3440 or [willmarlys@gmail.com](mailto:willmarlys@gmail.com).



News Sports Opinion History

Community Events Calendar



Click here and stay in touch with events online  
[McKenzie Community Events Calendar.](#)



<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<b>Living Water Family Fellowship</b> Pastor - Doug Fairington 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 541-822-3820 Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM, Children's ministry also. Come early for a meet and greet continental breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM. Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)
<b>McKenzie Bible Fellowship</b> <i>45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon</i> <b>Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Youth Ministries</b> <b>KidsFest Family Activities</b> <b>Small Group Fellowships</b> <b>Men's &amp; Women's Bible Studies</b> <i>Call 896-3829 for information</i> <i>www.mckenziebible.com</i>	<b>Catholic Church</b> <b>St. Benedict Lodge Chapel</b> 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge <b>Sat. Eve. 5:00pm</b> <b>Sun. Morn. 9:30am;</b> <b>web page: <a href="http://sblodge.opwest.org">sblodge.opwest.org</a></b>
<b>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church</b> Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of WALTERVILLE, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, <a href="mailto:nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com">nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com</a> , 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you! <b>Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</b>	

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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell



I have been married for a little over seven years, with one 2-year-old son and another on the way. Over time, I believe my wife and I have grown apart. Sexually, we never connected.

Before our marriage, I thought we had a good connection, but three days after the wedding, she told me being married did not obligate her to sleep with me. I suppose this is true, but I found it heartbreaking. I asked what changed. She said she didn't enjoy sex.

I feel she misled me until after the wedding when she felt secure enough to tell me her true feelings. Over time, despite begging and pleading, listening and soothing, we haven't gotten anywhere. At our last attempt at couples counseling, I explained in manners both gentle and blunt she needs to accept these things.

The more I bring it up, the more my wife is prone to tantrums and throwing things. Over the years

this has led to depression, which I handle with medication and regular therapy. I find myself in Catch-22. I can only work on myself in therapy, not on her or our marriage. Yet the marriage is the source of my depression.

We have had occasional sex since we had a child. But it's infrequent, lacks feeling, and is more akin to making a baby than making love. I love my son and love being a father. My heart desperately wants a connection with a woman. I've gotten myself into a bind, and I don't like my options. Is there a middle road?

Richard, whatever else marriage is, it is also a contract. Every legal system allows you to terminate a contract when fraud and deceit are involved. What the answer was seven years ago is still the answer. Three days after the wedding, you should have sought an annulment or divorce.

Everything that's happened since is a complication of not doing what needed to be done then. Your wife was so sure you would not leave she could arrogantly admit her deception after the wedding. Why should she change now? What's in it for her?

Your life is like the scene in "Catch-22" where Yossarian

bandages the leg wound of his young tail-gunner Snowden, without realizing Snowden is dying from a much more serious wound. Medicating you without any possible chance of a solution isn't the answer. In your case, the only avenue may be to remove yourself from the situation.

Find a different counselor, one who can help you work toward a solution. Just because you didn't deal with the problem before doesn't mean you can't deal with it now. It only means the price of the solution will be higher.

Wayne & Tamara

## Understudy

A close female friend at work found a new job. I'm currently deciding what to buy to reflect my friendship with her and to say I'll be there for her in the future. I know she likes diamonds and blue topaz, her birthstone, but I don't feel comfortable buying jewelry.

I don't want to buy her a card and leave it at that because we've been through a lot together, and I feel I would be letting her down. The problem is she has a boyfriend, and I do not want to act like I'm trying to make a move on her. How do I show my appreciation and say I'll be there for her if things don't go the way she planned?

Trent

Trent, she's chosen her leading man, but you'd like to understudy the role. That's pretty much it, isn't it? If the current production gets bad reviews, you might get the part after all.

You want a gift that says, I'm not meddling in your relationship, but I'd like to. Though our suggestion is not to meddle, a restaurant gift card makes a nice present, and who knows who she'll invite?

Tamara

## American Life in Poetry

### Now Winter Nights Enlarge

By Thomas Campion

Now winter nights enlarge  
The number of their hours;  
And clouds their storms discharge  
Upon the airy towers.  
Let now the chimneys blaze  
And cups o'erflow with wine,  
Let well-turned words amaze  
With harmony divine.  
Now yellow waxen lights  
Shall wait on honey love  
While youthful revels, masques,  
and courtly sights  
Sleep's leaden spells remove.

This time doth well dispense  
With lovers' long discourse;  
Much speech hath some defense,  
Though beauty no remorse.  
All do not all things well;  
Some measures comely tread,  
Some knotted riddles tell,  
Some poems smoothly read.  
The summer hath his joys,  
And winter his delights;  
Though love and all his pleasures  
are but toys,  
They shorten tedious nights.

Thomas Campion was born in London, England in 1567. Campion's importance for nondramatic literature of the English Renaissance lies in the exceptional intimacy of the musical-poetic connection in his work. While other poets and

musicians talked about the union of the two arts, only Campion produced complete songs wholly of his own composition, and only he wrote lyric poetry of enduring literary value whose very construction is deeply etched with the poet's care for its ultimate fusion with music.

Campion died on March 1, 1620, at age 52. He was buried on the day of his death at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, Fleet Street. He had never married, and although he had carved an important place for himself in the musical and literary world of James's court, he cannot be said to have been a success, at least not by late-20th-century standards. With six collections of songs in print, three masques presented at court and their descriptions published, and an apparently adequate midlife career as a physician, Campion was able to leave only 23 pounds to his longtime friend and collaborator, Philip Rosseter.

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If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. AA Group meets Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm and Sunday 5:00-6:00pm at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, 88393 Walterville Loop, a block from the Walterville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

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1. NASDAQ's TSLA

6. Meme dance move

9. Feudal laborer

13. Plant louse

14. Inflated feeling

15. Signaling flare

16. She turned to stone, Greek mythology

17. Barn call

18. L in AWOL

19. \*Zodiac sign for those born on Halloween
21. \*Ford "Zodiac"

23. Cash machine, acr.

24. Island

25. Short for although

28. Cul de \_\_\_\_, pl.

30. Owing something (2 words)

35. Argo's propellers

37. Mature

39. Passed

40. Guilty, e.g.

41. Presidential promises, e.g.

43. Those against

44. Waker-upper

46. Skin infection
47. King of beasts
48. \*1960s California serial killer
50. Address a deity
52. Short for ensign
53. Hoodwink
55. New Zealand parrot
57. \*Fish sign
60. \*Half man/half horse sign
64. Blood vessel
65. This is well if it ends well
67. Body trunk
68. Move like ivy
69. Grazing field
70. Plant with liquorice-flavored seeds
71. Catch one's breath
72. Trim the lawn
73. Roebuck's partner

- DOWN
1. Sun kisses
2. Colossal
3. Pest command
4. \*Zodiac sign or Don DeLillo's 1988 novel
5. One who is skilled at something
6. Visual presentation
7. "Four score and seven years \_\_\_\_"
8. Dora the Explorer's simian friend
9. Court petitioner
10. Genesis twin
11. RPMs
12. Extra charge
15. Like a native speaker
20. Insect, post-metamorphosis
22. Prince in Disney's "Aladdin" movie
24. Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
25. \*Birthstone for some born under Scorpio or Sagittarius
26. Hello, alt. sp.
27. Mountain nymph
29. \*Cancer crustacean
31. Lentil soup
32. Golfer Els
33. Take a chance (2 words)
34. \*Gemini
36. Delhi dress
38. Sound of a fan
42. Satisfy, as in thirst
45. Eccentric one
49. Pool tool
51. Gossipy ones
54. Religious song
56. Make amends
57. Skin opening
58. Wraths
59. Proofreader's mark
60. Old-fashioned bathtub foot
61. Vocal piece for one
62. Brezhnev's domain
63. Fish eggs, pl.
64. Acronym, abbr.
66. \*#47 Across, in the sky

Stay in touch with what's happening - open the McKenzie Community Calendar!

Click here or go to: [tinyurl.com/yeye92hx](https://tinyurl.com/yeye92hx)

Events from Dec 28th

NO SCHOOL DAYS

Mon Dec 18th - Wed Jan 3rd 2024

No School - Winter Break

LEADING STORE WRECK SLOWS

Sat Dec 30th 10:00am - 12:00pm

A Dime At A Time

Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sun Dec 31st 9:00am - 12:00pm

New Year's Eve Celebration

New Year's Eve Celebration, presented by Bigfoot Beverages and Pepsi, is an all-day party on the mountain. Lifts run from 9 a.m. - 9

Tue Jan 2nd 2024

Lane County Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular

Tue Jan 2nd 2024

10:00am - 11:00am

COFFEE WITH THE LOCALS

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals). Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in

Tue Jan 2nd 2024 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners meeting

Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time at

Wed Jan 3rd 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Upper McKenzie Cornhole League

Join us for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center! We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday

Wed Jan 3rd 2024 6:00pm - 7:15pm

Blue River Water Board

The board will meet at 6 p.m. A link to the meeting is available at: [blueriverpark.com](https://blueriverpark.com)

Wed Jan 3rd 2024 9:00am - 11:30am

Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9am-11:30am at Green Island to help care for this special area where the

BINGO!

Wed Jan 3rd 2024 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Wacky Wednesdays Bingo

Cards go on sale at 6 pm. Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning spots fill up quickly. Burger

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution on Page 9

Did you know...

Community newspapers connect with their readers? 89% believe that their local paper has stories for their particular interest.

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### Ski Report

December 26, 2023

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 31 degrees at the base and 25 degrees near the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 24 inches. Surfaces were wetter recently and after combining with yesterday's precipitation, slick patches remain. Drivers should take their time in the morning with patches of black ice on the roads up to the mountain. 66 of 122 trails were open, along with 11 of 15 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

More snow is needed before the Hoodoo Ski Resort will open for this season.



### A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**December 28** - When the white settlers arrived along the Columbia River they found a group of native people who worshipped the sun. This was in direct conflict to Christianity and within a generation the sun worshippers disappeared. But they left behind markings on the hard basalt cliffs and these markings provide a window to the past. Historians believe that the Wallula Stone, with a carving of the sun's all-seeing eye, is one of the best examples from the era of the sun worshippers. This fifteen-ton boulder was found by railroad workers in 1910 and transported to Portland where, for eight decades, it guarded the morning side of City Hall. The Umatilla tribe, under the 1990 federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, laid claim to the stone. It was returned to the tribe in 1996 and became the centerpiece of an Indian memorial located near Pendleton.

### Quote of the Week

“Don’t be afraid to make a mistake, your readers might like it.”

William Randolph Hearst

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

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7	5	2	4	6	8	1	3	9
8	1	3	7	9	5	6	2	4
5	3	6	9	8	4	7	1	2
2	7	4	6	1	3	5	9	8
9	8	1	2	5	7	3	4	6

### Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

**4:51 p.m:** Citation Service - 91900 blk, Taylor Rd.

**5:52 p.m:** Theft - 54400 blk, McK. Hwy.

**5:59 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 54400 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:19 p.m:** Dead Animal - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

**Dec. 21: 11:11 a.m:** Information - 9000 blk, Thurston Rd.

**1:10 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 88300 blk, Millican Rd.

**1:33 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**4:11 p.m:** Citizen Contact - Blue River area.

**5:34 p.m:** Welfare Check - 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd.

**6:34 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**Dec. 22: 2:46 a.m:** Burglary - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

**8:11 a.m:** Illegal Dump - 37700 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

**2:12 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - 95200 blk, Marcola Rd.

**3:11 p.m:** Illegal Cutting of Forest Products - Marcola Rd. & Bowman Rd.

**4:56 p.m:** Towed Vehicle - 44900 blk, Leaburg Dam Rd.

**5:19 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 44800 blk, McK. Hwy.

**7:50 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 38800 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.

**Dec. 23: 2:45 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - Marcola Rd. & Nadeau Rd.

**1:27 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Holden Creek Ln.

**1:51 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**1:52 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

Hwy.

**2:50 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Holden Creek Ln.

**6:56 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Holden Creek Ln.

**7:24 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & holden creek Ln.

**7:32 p.m:** Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

**10:18: p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Lat: 44.21557. Long: -122.97373.

**11:25 p.m:** Patrol Check - McGowan overlook.

**Dec. 24: 11:08 a.m:** Illegal Burn - 43900 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:31 p.m:** Violation of Restraining Order - Camp Creek Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

**7:24 p.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 92200 blk, Alcorn St.

**Dec. 25: 11:20 a.m:** Alarm - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**4:57 p.m:** Theft - 39900 blk, McK. Hwy.

Comments, as reported, may not be complete or accurate. If further information is required contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

### State Police Report

Continued From Page 3

from Eugene.

**Dec. 20: 10:40:** Towed Vehicle, Abandoned/Hazard – Hwy. 126E, Mp. 43.5. On Sunday, December 17, an abandoned vehicle was tagged to be removed. On Monday, December 18, a caller reported some suspicious males were loading the vehicle unto a car trailer and the vehicle did not have any markings to relate it to a registered tow company. Trooper responded and identified the two males, one of which was the owner of a tow company, and they said they were picking up the vehicle upon the request by the owner. The owner of the tow company later called to advise the male who requested the tow was not the registered owner and made it unclear why the tow request was made. On Wednesday, December 20, the owner of the vehicle (not the registered owner) called to

report the vehicle was no longer at the mentioned location. A stolen vehicle report was unable to be taken due to the owner not having the proper documentation. He was provided the case number for the incident when the vehicle was removed and the phone number and the name of the tow company who has his vehicle. Involved vehicle: gray Chrysler 300.

**Dec. 23: 11:20:** Crash, Injury – Hwy. 126E, McKenzie Bridge. A silver Toyota Tacoma was traveling westbound when it lost control and slid into the ditch on the north side of the road. The Toyota's front end dug into the dirt, tripped, and rolled at least once before coming to rest upside down in the ditch. The operator was able to self-extract and wait for arriving medical personnel. The operator was transported to the hospital for evaluation. The Toyota also had a dog and a cat in the vehicle. Both seemed uninjured and were secured with a roommate. The vehicle was towed. Involved: 28-year-old female.

## There Are Good Things To Keep In Mind

As we deal with another challenging year, resolutions for change are a good idea. Among actions to avoid, however, would be spending your hard-earned dollars outside our local communities.

Shopping at Home will help McKenzie Valley businesses continue to be supporters of area organizations, schools, and churches that in turn have counterbalanced the adverse impacts of the Lookout Fire..

Working together, we will remain “McKenzie Strong.”

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## Emergency? Call 911





## July



A request for help over the Independence Day weekend drew a multi-agency response to the Blue Pool after a subject jumped off the main rock and broke his legs.

The area moved to ‘High’ Fire Danger, impacting approximately 1.9 million acres of state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management lands in Lane, Linn and portions of Douglas County.

Over at the Tokatee Golf Club’s annual celebration, animated patriotic icons - ranging from the Statue of Liberty to the American flag - were joined by the club’s own logo in brightening the night sky. The images were part of a 13-minute drone light show.

Portions of the McKenzie River were closed to salmon angling due to concerns about protecting wild Chinook. The salmon holding in the stream near Leaburg Dam were identified as meeting broodstock needs for hatchery production. The portion of the McKenzie River that prohibited salmon angling effective July 15<sup>th</sup> was to be in effect through December 31<sup>st</sup>. It extended from Leaburg Dam downstream approximately one mile - to the mouth of Trout Creek.

## August

“CobblerCreativity” was headlined at the Upper McKenzie Community Center’s Ice Cream Social. The winner of the Cobbler Contest was Judy Roth. Her Blueberry-Raspberry entry was awarded a blue ribbon. Over 100 people attended the Saturday event and had the opportunity to see plans for future improvements to the historic structure.

A group of dedicated classic car collectors who had set out from Seattle for a 1,500-mile road trip to California made a stop in McKenzie Bridge. The route of the Pebble Beach Motoring Classic, which traveled through mountain passes and along the Pacific Coast would continue before ending at the famed Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance collector car show.

The Lookout Fire escalated to “Leave Now” for residents in the areas north of Hwy. 126 - from Blue River Reservoir Road east to Drury Lane.

An open-access bridge was added to the McKenzie River Discovery Center’s fishing pond. Thanks to a \$19,000 grant from the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, the pond has been upgraded to host angling and education/outreach events.



On Monday the Lookout Fire could be seen above the power transmission lines near the Tokatee Golf Club.

## September

“Famous, fabulous, and full of family fun” defined the 71st Walterville Fair. As in years past, it featured the popular mile-long parade as well as displays of prize-winning canning, baking, fruits and vegetables, handcrafts (quilting, crochet, knitting), arts and crafts, antiques, and photos- all topped off by the popular Barbeque chicken dinner.

The Old McKenzie Pass opened again following a wild-fire closure thanks to reductions in the Lookout Fire evacuation levels. The highway had been blocked off due to fire activity from the lightning-caused fire.

Plans to rebuild Blue River were dealt a blow when it was determined a planned community sewer system would pollute waterways. Lane County reported that the proposed 35,000-gallon-per-day (GPD) community wastewater system would pollute both the Blue River and McKenzie River. Instead, planners were proceeding with designing a 2,500-gallon-per-day onsite wastewater system for the Blue River Park, as well as another one for the Old Mill property.



Vendors showcased their wares at eighteen booths and people had opportunities to win prizes for produce, quilting, and art in various mediums at the Walterville Fair.

## October



After several matchups and multiple competitors took a toss, Scott Tant and Jerry Lincoln were the named the Cornhole Competition Champs.

The McKenzie Valley Long-Term Recovery Group received funding to help pay for - or reimburse - eligible property owners whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed by the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. The program could cover up to \$5,000 for the survey of a lot linked with a primary dwelling.

A man arrested for multiple crimes was facing 19 charges. Some involved car break-ins at the Ben and Kay Dorris Boat Landing as well as vehicle theft. Others included four counts of Unlawful Entry of a Motor Vehicle, 1st and 2nd Degree Theft, 3 counts of Criminal Mischief, Felon in Possession of a Weapon, Burglary 2, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, and 3 counts of Identity Theft.

Forging a new beginning and being mindful of the past were themes stressed when people gathered at the McKenzie Community Track. The day-long event celebrated the area’s heritage, and community spirit, and shared commitments to “take care of our home.”

A new bridge, leading to the Pond Road (USFS 805) was built as part of the initial phase of a larger-scale project to restore floodplain habitat across 180 acres of land in the Quartz Creek sub-watershed.

## November



Digging in at the groundbreaking for the O’Brien Memorial Library (from left): Larissa Andrews - Vice-President of OML, John Stapleton and Alexis Thomas - Pivot Architecture, Charlie McClain - McClain Construction, Connie Richardson - President OML Mickey Hornbeck - McClain Construction, and Aidan Wilson - Treasurer of the Library.

A kickoff for the reconstruction of the new 3,200-square-foot medical clinic in Blue River was another well-attended groundbreaking event. Besides patient exam rooms and office areas, the clinic is planned to include a community or multi-purpose room on the site next to the new Blue River Fire Station, already under construction.

A camp to remember was on the minds of “White Branchers” who shared memories on a day of celebration at Camp White Branch. There were plenty of reminiscences from people who either attended camps or worked there.

Green Island marked twenty years of recovery for the 1,100 acres at the McKenzie/Willamette confluence. Since the McKenzie River Trust acquired land from the Green family in 2003, the acreage has been evolving. The property is now recognized as the site of some of the least altered fish and wildlife habitats in the Willamette Valley.

## December

A recurring landslide plugged Aufderheide Drive again near Terwilliger Hot Springs. Traffic was reduced to one lane near milepost 55.5 - about ¾ of a mile south of Cougar Dam. Repair work was expected to be ongoing and intermittent, with the possibility of more rock falls, according to forest spokesmen.

Could Hwy. 126 be safer? An ODOT study identified 9 “hot spot” areas for improvement. They include the Walterville canal bridge, the area near the Leaburg hydroelectric spillway, and Ben and Kay Dorris Park, as well as four intersections with Hwy. 126 - at Deerhorn Road, Ross Lane, Holden Creek (east and west), Johnson Creek Road, and Goodpasture Road.

Santa and his elf weren’t alone in spreading Holiday cheer at the Vida Community Center’s Christmas Bazaar. The annual event drew a steady stream of people to the event located inside the Walterville Grange Hall to sample vendors’ offerings, music, and food.



A whitewater fleet took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas boat parade organized by the Horse Creek Lodge. Lights, Christmas trees, and background tunes all added to the festive scene that was greeted with cheers from bankside viewers.